

House File 2073 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 2073

BY HUNTER

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the use of the elder index to determine
2 provision of services and programs for older individuals.
3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. USE OF ELDER INDEX IN PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR
2 OLDER INDIVIDUALS.

3 1. *a.* The department on aging shall amend the state plan
4 on aging and submit the amended plan to the United States
5 administration on aging for approval to allow the use of
6 the elder index in determining eligibility for programs and
7 services under the state plan.

8 *b.* If the state plan amendment is approved, the department
9 on aging shall use the elder index in determining eligibility
10 for all needs-based programs for older individuals under the
11 department's purview pursuant to the federal Older Americans
12 Act and shall require each area agency on aging to use
13 the elder index in preparing needs assessments and in the
14 development of each area agency on aging area plan.

15 *c.* If the state plan amendment is approved, the department
16 shall update the elder index annually.

17 2. For the purposes of this section, "elder index"
18 means the elder economic security standard index developed
19 by the wider opportunities for women and the gerontology
20 institute at the university of Massachusetts Boston that is a
21 geographically-based measure of the income adequacy required
22 by an older individual to meet all basic needs including but
23 not limited to housing, food, health care, transportation,
24 long-term care, and miscellaneous essentials without reliance
25 on income-eligible public supports.

26 EXPLANATION

27 This bill relates to the use of the elder index in
28 determining eligibility for programs and services under the
29 purview of the department of elder affairs pursuant to the
30 federal Older Americans Act.

31 The bill defines "elder index" and directs the department
32 on aging (IDA) to amend the state plan on aging and submit the
33 amended plan to the United States administration on aging for
34 approval to allow the use of the elder index in determining
35 eligibility for programs and services under the state plan. If

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1 the state plan amendment is approved, IDA is directed to use
2 the elder index in determining eligibility for all needs-based
3 programs for older individuals under the department's purview
4 and require each area agency on aging to use the elder index in
5 preparing needs assessments and in the development of each area
6 agency on aging area plan. IDA is directed to update the elder
7 index annually following approval.